

Mayor's comments - Gaylord's Departure: November 17, 2008

Earlier this afternoon, Gaylord's Bennett Westbrook met with me to share his company's decision to discontinue its plans to develop on Chula Vista bayfront.

He hand-delivered a letter outlining the Company's reasons for ending discussions regarding the resort and convention center proposal: prolonged planning and approval processes, a complicated regulatory and legal structure, and infrastructure costs.

The regulatory structure is at the **local, regional and State** level. Infrastructure costs beyond those that Gaylord's hotel and convention center would have triggered included roads, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, relocating the RV Park, water and sewer lines, and a fire station.

Our meeting lasted about half an hour. It left no doubt in my mind that Gaylord's decision is final. The complexity and costs of the project drove Gaylord's decision.

As you can imagine, I'm deeply disappointed.

My colleagues and I, Port Commissioners, and Port and City staffs, Councilmembers and Mayors who preceded us --**and this community**-- invested *years* in our Chula Vista bayfront planning.

Gaylord would have been the catalyst for redeveloping 550 acres of prime waterfront property. It's a goal this city has talked about and pursued for at least 35 years. Our waterfront has tremendous potential.

We fought hard to make this project happen. But Gaylord determined that there have always been challenges. We made progress on several fronts, but ultimately, Gaylord determined the public infrastructure costs associated with our bayfront development were too great to overcome.

Over the coming weeks, we'll review what we've learned from the process and Gaylord's decision, and will determine what next steps are most appropriate.